

NEWS IN

brief

Human skeletal remains found in Ctg landfill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Some human skeletal remains kept in a bag were recovered from the landfill of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) in Anandabazar area yesterday. The sex of the victim was not identifiable. Police suspected it to be a killing, and said it was committed at least a week before. The CCC cleaners discovered the bag containing a human skull and some bones as they dumped some garbage collected from a dustbin in Sadarghat area under Kotwali Police Station yesterday. On information, police recovered the remains and sent them to a hospital morgue for autopsy, said Md Nurul Absar Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge, Bandar Police Station.

One dies after falling from train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

An unidentified man was killed after falling from the rooftop of a running train in Parbatipur upazila on Friday evening. Police said the man, aged around 26, accidentally fell down on the ground from the rooftop of Rajshahi bound Titumeer Express when the train was entering Bhabanipur Railway Station. He died on the spot.

Man takes his own life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man allegedly committed suicide in the port city yesterday. The deceased Nayan Das, 28, son of Rakhal Das hailing from Patakut village of Mirsarai upazila in Chittagong, lived in Ananda Bazar Jele Para in the city with his wife and two children. Nayan's wife woke at around 3:00am and found her husband hanging from the ceiling of their room, said police. The neighbours informed the ward councillor of the area and the councillor informed the police who recovered the hanging body at around 10:00am.

Jamilur Reza joins UAP as VC

METRO DESK

Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury joined University of Asia Pacific (UAP) as Vice Chancellor on May 2, says a press release. Prof Reza, a former adviser to caretaker government of Bangladesh, is a prominent educationist, engineer, researcher and scientist. He has received numerous accolades for his contributions to education, infrastructure development, science, ICT policy formulation and research.



RU students demand shifting of dept to campus

RU CORRESPONDENT

Some 100 students of Rajshahi University's (RU) crop science and technology department laid siege to the administrative building yesterday demanding the shifting of the department to the main campus from Narikelbaria, situated 16 kilometres away. They locked the department's office and classrooms and threatened to continue boycotting classes and exams, which they initiated from April 28, and go for tougher programmes till the demand was met. Addressing a press conference at Rajshahi University Journalist Association, they pointed out their problems, including lack of immediate medical facilities in Narikelbaria and tiring bus journeys on dilapidated roads to and from the halls.

Valuables worth Tk 1.5 lakh burnt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Valuables worth about Tk 1.5 lakh were gutted as a fire broke out at a Shershah Colony shop in Chittagong city early yesterday. Fire officials said the fire might have started from an electric short circuit in the crockery shop housed in a tin-roofed concrete building. The flames lasted about an hour till fire fighters from Bayezid fire station doused them around 5:30am.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rangpur Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and in the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Noakhali and Comilla in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Offices said.

Day and night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:29pm today and rises at 5:20am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 18.0 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.4	20.5	50	47
Chittagong	32.6	22.0	70	63
Rajshahi	35.6	21.0	67	50
Rangpur	33.0	22.0	64	53
Khulna	34.5	20.4	72	59
Barisal	34.5	20.5	72	66
Sylhet	35.2	21.1	54	48
Cox's Bazar	33.6	22.6	62	58



Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee being greeted with a bouquet by a child on his arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital last night. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PTD

BDR MUTINY

309 get rigorous imprisonment, one sepoy acquitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday sentenced 309 soldiers of 36 Rifle Battalion of erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to up to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for their role in the mutiny on February 25-26, 2009. Judges of the mutiny case also fined each convict Tk 100. A defendant, sepoy Abdur Rashid, was acquitted as the charges brought against him were not proven and would be taken back to the force. During the two-day violence at the BDR's Pilkhana headquarters, the mutineers mowed down 57 top and mid-ranking army officers alongside 17 other people. The battalion chief, Lt Col Enayet, second-in-command,

Major Makbul, and intelligence officer, Major Haidar, were killed while the body of the sector commander of Dhaka, Col Mujibul Huq, was found at the battalion. The soldiers are alleged to have left the Darbar Hall defying the director general's order, showed solidarity with mutineers, revolted with firearms, stayed inactive in preventing the mutiny and controlling unruly colleagues and subordinates and used weapons. Of the convicts, 52 were jailed for seven years, two for six and a half years, 13 for six years, 31 for five years, 53 for four years, five for three and a half years, 58 for three years, three for two years and two months, 50 for two years, 37 for one year, three for six months and two for four

months. Border Guard Bangladesh (formerly BDR) headquarters Director (admin) Col Khandakar Obaidul Ahsan, who led the three-member Special Court-10, before reading out the verdict, said, "Those who are present at the dock are our colleagues. Those who died were our colleagues..." "The convicted soldiers will serve in non-military prisons. The jail term will be effective from today (yesterday)." Earlier, the court mentioned some points it took into consideration for the sake of justice. Those include upholding the BDR law and its proper implementation, past records and designation of the accused, contribution to the 1971 Liberation War and duration of

time spent behind bars from arrest till the verdict. Four out of the 16 defence lawyers were present at the court, set up at the Darbar Hall of BGB Headquarters in Pilkhana. 119 witnesses gave depositions against the convicts while 29 defence witnesses testified for the accused. The court gave the verdict in 46 working days after starting proceedings from March 15, 2010. A total 3,345 out of 3,423 soldiers of 52 units of BDR were punished for their involvement in the mutiny while 78 others were acquitted. The trial of 2,622 BDR jawans are now going on in five special courts at the BDR headquarters.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and eight other organisations hold a citizens' rally before Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday to place an 11-point demand to address the country's vulnerability to climate change.

KILLING BY TALIBAN IN AFGHANISTAN

Security for Brac staff not enough

STAR REPORT

Brac official Mohammad Mohiuddin, who was shot dead at Brac provincial office in Ghor of Afghanistan on Thursday, earlier had informed his senior officials about insufficient security, claimed his wife. "Nearly three months ago he [Mohiuddin] had informed about insufficient security there. At that time the authorities concerned had increased the number of security guards from one to two. Now I think that was not enough," Mohiuddin's wife Parveen Akhter told The Daily Star yesterday. Mohiuddin, 41, Brac's area manager in Chaghcharan, capital of Ghor province, was killed in an armed attack on his office. Khandaker Ariful Islam, country representative of Brac Afghanistan chapter, however, denied receiving any message from Mohiuddin regarding the security at the office. "I didn't get any message, letter or

information about lack of security there. Usually, we have one security guard on duty during daytime and two at night. The arrangement was the same for Ghor," Ariful told this newspaper last evening over the phone. "Mohiuddin had recently been transferred from Ghor to Samangan province. Today (Saturday) was the scheduled date for handing over the charges of Ghor office and joining at the office in Samangan," he said. The body of Mohiuddin will arrive in Dhaka this morning. "We have already completed all the procedures to bring the body home. We hope to land in Dhaka around 10:30am," said Ariful. Another Bangladeshi, Samiul Haq, who managed to escape the attack, will arrive in the capital with the body. The body of the deceased will be taken to his village home at Fulbaria in Mymensingh for burial, said Zia Hashan, media manager of Brac. Meanwhile, several local employees of Brac visited Mohiuddin's home at Fulbaria to console his family mem-

bers, reports our Mymensingh correspondent. In a statement issued yesterday, Brac Founder and Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed expressed profound shock and grief at the death of Mohiuddin. "I join Mohiuddin's family in this moment of grief. I wish them the strength and courage to help them pass through this difficult time. Mohiuddin demonstrated great bravery and dedication in serving humanity by working closely with the Afghan communities," he said. "I know that this is an irreparable loss, but Brac will do everything possible to provide support to his family," added Sir Abed. He also insisted that Brac will continue its activities in Afghanistan, but will review its future plan to beef up security for its staff in Afghanistan. Brac, a non-government organisation, started its activities in Afghanistan in 2002. Currently, it employs around 3,000 persons in its 173 offices there.

Govt must win climate compensation

Scientist tells rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should strongly raise its voice to win just compensation from the industrialised countries, which are mostly responsible for the vagaries of climate, noted environmental scientist Dr A Atiq Rahman said at a rally yesterday. The developed nations have greatly contributed to climate change through large-scale carbon emission, while the developing nations like Bangladesh are victim of the impacts, he said. So the government should strengthen its voice to obtain just compensation, he added. For climate change adaptation, Dr Atiq placed three recommendations--wide-scale tree plantation, introduction of cooker that burns without firewood, and cutting traffic jam. Hundreds of people in Bangladesh are being displaced by river erosion, flash flood, and other natural disasters, which are the consequences of climate change, he said, urging the government to rehabilitate the victims with the support of global climate fund. Addressing the rally styled "Connecting the Climate Realities in Bangladesh", noted columnist and social activist Syed Abul Maksud stressed the need for a holistic approach of the government to address climate issues. All the related ministries and other government and non-government organisations should take integrated initiatives to work out a long-term plan to protect the country from natural disasters in the future, he said. Dr Abdul Matin, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), which arranged the rally along with eight other organisations, placed an 11-point demand to address the country's vulnerability to climate change. The demands include bringing down carbon emission below 350ppm, transparent use of climate fund, and arrangement of special facilities for coastal people. Nirapod Development Foundation Chairman Ibnul Syed Rana and Bapa member Hasan Yusuf Khan, among others, addressed the programme at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital.

Discussion
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 3:30pm.

Peace procession
Bangladesh Buddha Sangskritik Parishad will bring out a peace procession; Venue: National Museum-

Jatiya Press Club; Time: 8:00am.
Book launching
Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science will organise a book launching programme; Venue: Daffodil International University Auditorium, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi; Time: 10:00am.



Nooruzzaman's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of freedom fighter Lt Col (retd) Quazi Nooruzzaman (Bir Uttam). Nooruzzaman, also a veteran of the Second World War who joined the British Indian Navy in 1943, passed away on the day last year at a hospital in the capital. He joined the Liberation War on March 28, 1971 and was made commander of Sector No-7 on September 26. During his stint as the chairman of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the early 1980s, he demanded trial of war criminals and a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami. He was sent to jail by the then 'military dictator' HM Ershad for raising the demand. He was one of the architects of the Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee. Nooruzzaman, a noted writer and thinker, was the editor of the weekly Naya Padoddhani and one of the editors of the book, Ekattorer Ghatok o Dalalra Ke Kothay. His books include Muktiyuddho o Rajniti, Bangladesher Samaj o Rajniti, Swadesh Chinta, and A Sector Commander Remembers Bangladesh Liberation War.